

***Congressmen at forefront of Blue Dog efforts to identify and eliminate wasteful government spending***

Washington, DC – Today, under the leadership of **Representative Glenn Nye (D-VA)** and **Representative Charlie Wilson (D-OH)**

, members of the Blue Dog Coalition will introduce the Stop Waste by Eliminating Excessive Programs Act (SWEEP Act), legislation that would reduce unnecessary and wasteful government spending by creating a means to review and abolish federal programs that are inefficient, duplicative, or in other ways wasteful of taxpayer dollars. The SWEEP Act is a critical component of the Blue Dog Blueprint for Fiscal Reform, a comprehensive plan to reduce the deficit, balance the budget and lay the groundwork for sound fiscal policies over the long term.

"This legislation is about providing much-needed oversight and improving the way our government spends money. By identifying and consolidating these unnecessary programs across agency lines, the Commission will help ensure that taxpayer dollars are being allocated wisely and efficiently," Nye stated. "As a Blue Dog, I remain committed to rooting out wasteful practices within our financial system wherever possible. It is in the best interest of our economy, our government, and our national security."

"This legislation is part of a comprehensive package of bills that I'm either co-sponsoring or writing to help tackle our national debt," Wilson said. "Each of the bills in the plan does one of three basic things that working families automatically do as they deal with their own finances: they make common sense spending decisions, they trim the fat and they chip away at the debt. The SWEEP Act will help trim the fat and I'm proud to help bring this bill to Congress."

Specifically, the SWEEP Act would:

- Create a Federal Programs Sunset Commission that would review all government funded programs to determine their merit in proven outcomes, cost-effective record, scope of interest and whether there exist programs receiving funding for duplicative purposes.
- Require that the Commission report to Congress annually on programs that should be abolished, consolidated, transferred, reorganized or remain untouched.
- Reduce unnecessary government spending by mandating that Congress take an up or down vote on legislation abolishing wasteful programs.

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